Dear Mike,

8/12/77

Your mailing of the tape on 8/9 is very helpful to me. I'm glad you are making notes. That, too, is helpful. In this form it presents a problem because of my special circumstances. I'll return to this.

The Good Morning America tape is of excellent quality. I understand you had some local QRM on the NBC part but I could make part of it out. It has content, meaning GMA, that is valuable for me. One way or another I'll dub that for Lesar.

These are good enough to keep. One of the problems is keeping Ray with the CIA and its mind-bending. Won't work.

Let me lay my personal situation out for you as perhaps I have not. Today is not a typical day but it is the morning on which, unthinkingly, I listened to your excellent comments on the CIA records. How? When I was walking.

For reasons of health I've reformed. I try to sleep about 8 hours. However, this morning I had a call from a former source I think has flipped out. I know has been jailed and been to the funny-farm. She was a young woman of 21 and the most non-stop and one of the most accomplished,liars I've ever met when I first ran into her in New Orleans. Despite all the lies and ad libs and wild tales she was a very productive source. Exceptionally bright. A Narcfink also, for the locals. I checked it out. I suspect if not for money for safe supplies. This means she is now 30. In the interviewing years I've seen her a couple of times in New Orleans and heard from here from jail in Texas and once from the funnyfarm. She claims, and as of this morning continued to represent, that she has a CIA connection. Whether or not she was CIA she had knowledge not possessed by most people, less by women. She also knew the N.O. drug scene in ways that blew the minds of the assistant DA and the DA's chief investigator once when the four of us went on a trip in a car confiscated from a dealer. She recognized the car and told them the cokplete history of it, including how they got certain drug odors in certain weather and were never able to find the source. She also claimed that this particular dealer had ODed her on LSD. She called r a.m. or earlier today and again disclosed knowledge of a man with a long CIA part in arms and other equipment supplying, Mitchell WerBel III. I'd not be surprised if she had been used in these programs, especially if she had knowledge. But somehow she is being well supported without visible means of support where she now lives in Texas. Not by her family, with which she has been in controversy for a decade of more. This is because it may interest you and because it explains the way I live and have to live a little.

There was no point in trying to go back to sleep at 6 a.m. after more than an hour of conversation. So I took the mail out and brought the papers in. I then decided to take my first walk, the only exercise now prescribed and necessary to leg circulation. It was for 500 yars and on it I skimmed the Post's headlines. And hour later, after working at my desk, I walked more, this time 1250 yards, most in a month or more. During this walk I used the Panasonic larger machine with the built-in handle to listen to you. You picked out records that may well appeal to Whitten. If I had ~~xxx~~ realized this I'd have taken a pad and pen with me and each time you cited a document I'd have written it down. But I did not anticipate this. So I had nothing with which to write.

What I'd appreciate is two things, one I think I've mentioned before: one cassette per subject. You let me know periodically and I'll return the costbof the cassettes. Unless you fear hurting the hears Kmart tapes @ 3 for $1 are adequate for a record.

I'll get batteries I can recharge for the Panasonic, which he more volumex. They also cost less than the AAs for the Sony.

There was a time when I could work most of the day and not be tired. I have had to change that. But the ambount of work I must now do is much greater. Example: I just received 2,000 pages from the FBI on King, a project in which I have so much time and money invested and in which I have unique knowledge. I must give that priority over my JFK work, where the same is true; and I do. Another 20,000 King pages is not impossible. Do you

realize how much reading this is - how much volume? It has kept me from writing the book all year. I've drafted the first chapter, perhaps 16,000 words, and with materials I've received since then have to add and change.

Whether or not I have angina, there has been a change in me medically and it is not good. I don't need doctors to tell me my leg circulation is ~~further~~ further impaired. Among other things this interferes with concentration, as does what I have to do. I'm now taking time to walk even hour when the weather permits, a little at a time early in the day, until it gets too hot. I know of nothing except the anti-coagulent that is as potentially good. But only yesterday the dosage of coumadin was doubled after the protime test. Not a good sign. These are realities. I can do nothing about them. My life has to rotate around them. It does and it will. One result is that my working time is drastically reduced even if I now spend most of the time between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. working. When I can't walk because of the weather I use an exercycle. I have to find time for some arm exercises, too.

There is no chance that Les Whitten will sit down and listen to a half-hour tape. It is fine for me to cue him in, fine in giving me knowledge. I can listen to the tapes when I walk, which is great because it means I can work when I do that. If today's odd schedule permits I'll listen to the tapes again and make notes by stopping walking or by trying to hang the machine around my neck to have my hands free so I won't have to stop. But I've a bad tire I have to get fixed. I'm too far from a gas station for a service call unless it rains, as seems possible. I have a reporter with whom I work due by noon for two days unless he has been given another unexpected assignment. I did mention this subject to him and he will discuss it with his desk. Newsday. He wont work on it. It would be another reporter. This tape shows what to me are stories that have not been used.

So for people like Les I have to have records to show, that they can read. If the volume is great I would not ask you to make copies. But if it is not that would be a real help because the amount of copying my wife has to do has come to monopolize her life too much. She still has the rest to do for Cohen and we have more from the FBI and other DJ components on the way. I've just ordered 40 reams of paper. That much. The CIA's sets that I get are bound, in a way that makes taking them apart and putting them together difficult for her. But she can do it if the copying it too much for you. By the way, the Post says the first 1400 pages of the 8,000 are out. I've not received them. You'll have read that story before you get this.

Reporters just will not take time. If we want their attention we have to seek it their way. So if you can do nothing else, please just write the volume and the numbers down as you dictate your notes. I do think that with the records in front of them reporters will listen to the tapes but from prior experience I'm not sure. However, they will read records. That is faster. Only none of them is now about to go through what totals way over 10,000 pages. This makes your comments and notes indispensible in obtaining any other attention. I do think it is not impossible that with the pages to refer to them may take the time to thumb through the volumes for those pages but I know it is better to be able to give them copies. I can make a separate file of them and have them readily available. For someone like Les this improves the prospectes. He does not make his living from the column. He has to do other full-time work, as Anderson also does.

I hope this is an adequate explanation and that it is not asking too much of you.

The Ray stuff was quite helpful. Those cats do not yet understand Ray. Their observations are superficial as they relate to his personality. The lawyer's words also were of importance to us. So this is a great help and I do thank you. But please try to arrange one subject per cassette. The CIA stuff can be continuous, on more than one, because it is one subject. Again thanks much, very much. Sorry about the typos. Hastily,